REMARKS

Status

Claims 1, 3-13, 15-18, 20, 21 and 23-26 are pending, among which claims 1 and 16 are independent claims. Claim 22 has been cancelled. New claims 23-26 have been added.

Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to add the limitation of "wherein the polyurethane resin is obtained by reacting polyol and polyisocyanate, the polyol comprising at least one of polyester polyol and polyether polyol, and the polyisocyanate comprising at least one of aromatic polyisocyanate, aliphatic polyisocyanate, aromatic-aliphatic polyisocyanate and alicyclic polyisocyanate, and wherein an amount of the polyisocyanate to be compounded with respect to 100 parts by weight of the polyol is in the range of 1 to 30 parts by weight." A support for this limitation may be found on page 17 of the specification.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The rejection of claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16-18, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hennen is respectfully traversed.

Both claims 1 and 16 as amended above call "wherein the polyurethane resin is obtained by reacting polyol and polyisocyanate, the polyol comprising at least one of polyester polyol and polyether polyol, and the polyisocyanate comprising at least one of aromatic polyisocyanate, aliphatic polyisocyanate, aromatic-aliphatic polyisocyanate and alicyclic polyisocyanate, and wherein an amount of the polyisocyanate to be compounded with respect to 100 parts by weight of the polyol is in the range of 1 to 30 parts by weight." This limitation is neither disclosed nor taught by Hennen.

Because being obtained from the above polyol and polyisocyanate, the resulting polyurethane resin has both high polar portions and low polar potions. The high polar portions contain oxygen atoms derived from ether bonds and/or ether bonds and exhibit low affinity against polyolefin resin from which the release agent layer is formed. The low polar portions contain hydrocarbon structures, such as aromatic structures, aliphatic

structures, aromatic-aliphatic structures or alicyclic structures, and exhibit high affinity against the polyolefin resin.

Further, the above limitation recites that the amount of the polyisocyanate to be compounded with respect to 100 parts by weight of the polyol falls within the range of 1 to 30 parts by weight. Therefore, in the resulting polyurethane resin, the high polar portions, or the portions which exhibit low affinity against the polyolefin resin, outnumber the low polar portions, or the portions which exhibit high affinity against the polyolefin resin.

Thus, the adhesive layer of the present invention exhibits adequate adhesion and peel-off properties in relation to the release agent layer. Therefore, the release sheet is reliably adhered to the pressure sensitive sheet, while it can be sufficiently easily removed from the pressure sensitive sheet.

Hennen discloses a pressure sensitive adhesive article which comprises an adhesive layer and release agent. The adhesive layer is formed mainly of polyurethane resin. The release agent is formed mainly of polyolefin resin. However, Hennen is silent about the polyurethane resin defined in claims 1 and 16. More specifically, Hennen is silent about the polyurethane resin which is obtained by reacting polyol and polyisocyanate, the polyol comprising at least one of polyester polyol and polyether polyol, and the polyisocyanate comprising at least one of aromatic polyisocyanate, aliphatic polyisocyanate, aromatic-aliphatic polyisocyanate and alicyclic polyisocyanate, and wherein an amount of the polyisocyanate to be compounded with respect to 100 parts by weight of the polyol is in the range of 1 to 30 parts by weight.

Since Hennen is silent about the polyurethane resin defined in claims 1 and 16, Hennen does not anticipate these claims. Since claims 1 and 16 are not anticipated by Hennen, neither are claims 3-5, 8, 10, 11, 14, 17-18, 20 and 21 because these claims are dependent claims of claims 1 and 16.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The rejection of claims 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 15 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hennen in view of Shikinami is respectfully traversed.

Shikinami is also silent about the limitation of "wherein the polyurethane resin is obtained by reacting polyol and polyisocyanate, the polyol comprising at least one of polyester polyol and polyether polyol, and the polyisocyanate comprising at least one of aromatic polyisocyanate, aliphatic polyisocyanate, aromatic-aliphatic polyisocyanate and alicyclic polyisocyanate, and wherein an amount of the polyisocyanate to be compounded with respect to 100 parts by weight of the polyol is in the range of 1 to 30 parts by weight."

Shikinami discloses a conductive sticking agent, or an antistatic agent, which comprises a reaction product (a polymer resin) of a polyurethanepolyol prepolymer and a polyurethanepolyisocyanate prepolymer. However, in Shikinami, both polyurethanepolyol prepolymer and polyurethanepolyisocyanate prepolymer contain alkyilne oxide and thus contain oxygen atoms derived therefrom. Therefore, the resulting polyurethane resin only contains high polar portions which exhibit low affinity against polyolefin resin. Such a polyurethane resin cannot exhibit adequate and reliable adhesion and peel-off properties as exhibit by the present invention.

Since Hennen and Shikinami, either alone or in combination, fail to teach the invention recited in claims 1 and 16, these claims should be allowable over these references. Since claims 1 and 16 should be allowable, so should their dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

February 26, 2007
Date

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